CURT PIRES FRANKLIN JONAS MAXI DALL'O LUCA CASALANGUIDA MARK DALE MICAH MYERS

LOST FANTASY™

VOLUME TWO

Volume Two

A WORLD BEYOND

LOST FANTASY

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CHAPTER FIVE

FIRE IN THE SKY

LF

"OVER HERE, SON..."

"...IT HAPPENED OVER HERE."

CENE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?

THAT'S WHERE IT GETS WEIRD. WE GOT GLASS. SHATTERED EVERY-WHERE. WHICH, YOU KNOW, ISN'T PARTICULARLY STRANGE---

POLICE

BUT THESE ARE.

AND THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE BLOOD.

BURN MARKS ON THE GROUND. LIKE THE WHOLE PLACE WENT AND GOT STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I GUESS THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION IS...

...WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED HERE?

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

24 HOURS EARLIER.

SON...I MUST SAY, IT'S A SURPRISE TO HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER OUR TALK THE OTHER DAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL FREEZING ME OUT.

THIS IS BUSINESS, NOT PERSONAL, DAD.

ALRIGHT THEN, SON. BRIEF ME.

IT'S FUCKED. BUT I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY FIGURED THAT OUT FROM YOUR END.

HI, THERE. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M WORKING OVER HERE TOO. I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS BUT I NEED TO GET CONFIRMATION BEFORE WE CAN ACT.

SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?

I'M SORRY, DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT ON THE BOOKS WITH HIM? I'M NOT SEEING ANYTHING IN THE CALENDAR. IT LOOKS LIKE HE CLEARED HIS--

TAKE THE NIGHT, AND THEN HEAD BACK TO BLACK PILLAR. YOU AND I WILL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS TOGETHER.

AND SON...

YEAH?

NO.

I'M SORRY. ABOUT VALENCIA-- WELL, SHIT, ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

YOU WERE RIGHT. I OWE YOU THE TRUTH. I OWE YOU ANSWERS.

ONCE YOU GET HERE, WE'LL TALK. WE'RE LONG OVERDUE.

I'D LIKE THAT, DAD.

DAD, CAN I CALL YOU BACK? I GOT SOMEONE AT THE DOOR.

YEAH, SON. I'VE GOT SOME-ONE HERE, TOO... I'LL SEE YOU SOON, AND JUST REMEMBER...

I LOVE YOU, KID.

ALRIGHT...

...WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

THAT... THAT IS SIMPLE...

I AM CONSEQUENCE MADE MANIFEST.

I AM YOUR RECKONING!

ALRIGHT, THEN.

YOU WANNA DO THIS?

LET'S DO THIS!

FLY FREE, FLAMEHEART.

SO YOU DO BLEED, HEY? GOOD. IF YOU BLEED...

I CAN KILL YOU.

NO.

YOU CAN'T.

IT'S BEEN DECADES SINCE I'VE BROKEN A SWEAT LIKE THIS. I SHOULD THANK YOU.

YOU...

YES. ME.

IT'S LIKE LOOKING AT A REFLECTION, ISN'T IT? AT YOUR OWN *TWISTED PROGENY.*

WHATEVER SINS WE COMMITTED WERE FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

IF I HAD TO...

I'D DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.

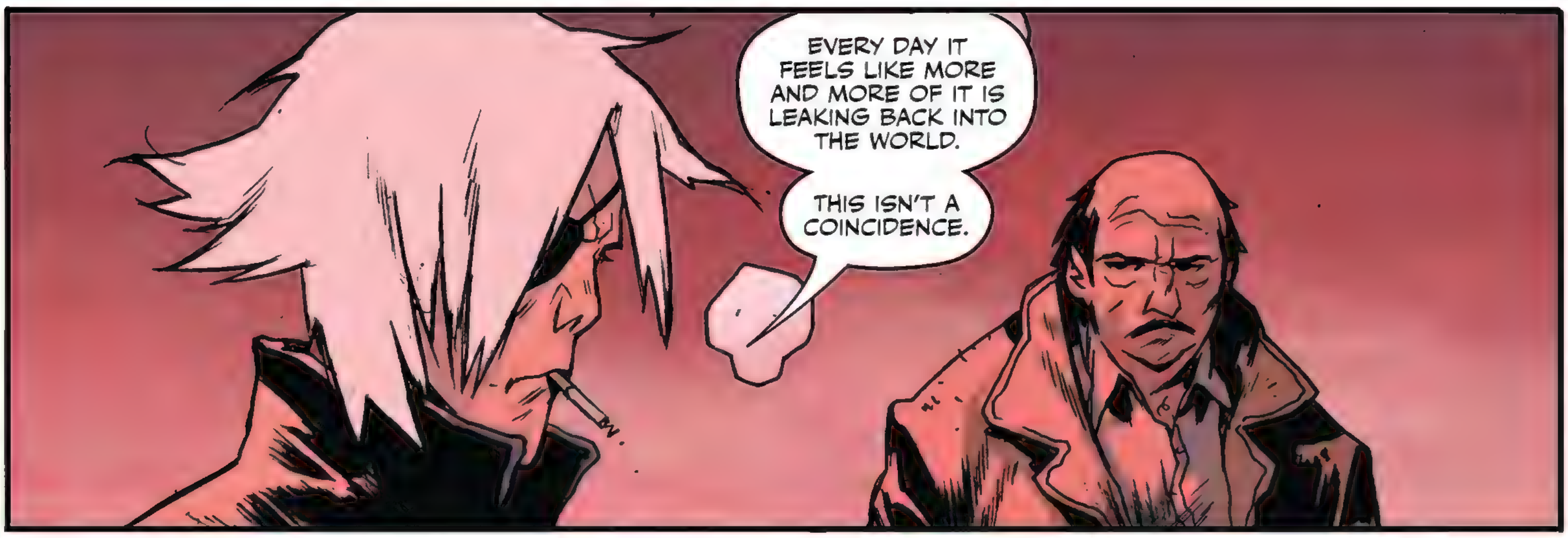
I KNOW YOU WOULD. AND THAT...

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO DIE.

JUST FINISH IT ALREADY.

VERY WELL THEN...

IME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
CRIME SCE
THIS WASN'T LIGHTNING, THIS WAS MAGIC. OLD AND STRONG.
2


EVERY DAY IT FEELS LIKE MORE AND MORE OF IT IS LEAKING BACK INTO THE WORLD.
THIS ISN'T A COINCIDENCE.

LET ME SEE THE OFFICE.
I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING IF I'M GOING TO CATCH THIS KILLER.

THANKS FOR COMING, BERNIE. I KNOW IT'S LATE.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, MY BOY, THOUGH I MUST ADMIT, I WISH IT WEREN'T UNDER SUCH DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU TOO, BERNIE. NOW LET'S GET TO IT. EVERY MOMENT COUNTS.

ABSOLUTELY.

YOUR FATHER KEPT A DETAILED LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT--FRANKLY, HE COULDN'T AFFORD NOT TO WITH ALL THE ENEMIES HE'D MADE--AND HIS WISHES WERE CLEAR WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH.

YOU WERE TO TAKE OVER THE POST OF HEADMASTER OF THE INSTITUTE--AND TAKE HIS SEAT ON THE QUORUM--WHICH AT THE MOMENT IS A LEADERSHIP POSITION--*THE HIGH CHAIR.*

HOWEVER, ALL THIS IS COMPLICATED CONSIDERABLY BY THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO BODY. HE IS TECHNICALLY MISSING, NOT DECEASED.

HE'S STILL OUT THERE.

I CAN FEEL IT.

OF COURSE, MY BOY. HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL. REGARDLESS.

IN THE EVENT OF HIS INCAPACITATION, YOU WERE MEANT TO RECEIVE POWER OF ATTORNEY--AND DECISION-MAKING POWER OVER THE ESTATE. SO THE CHOICE--

THE CHOICE IS ENTIRELY YOURS, MY BOY.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

NEXT? THAT'S SIMPLE.

I'M GOING TO FIND MY FATHER-- WHEREVER HE IS-- I'M GOING TO SAVE HIM.

BUT FIRST...

"...THERE'S SOMEONE I NEED TO SEE."

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.

SORRY. I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH SOMETHING.

WHAT NOW? A VARKIN? SOME SORT OF DRAKANOID?

NO. SOME-THING MUCH WORSE...

DAD. SOMEONE GOT TO HIM.

FUCK ME. WHO?

I DON'T KNOW YET, BUT I MEAN TO FIND OUT.

WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME? WHAT CAN I DO?

THE SCHOOL. I NEED YOU TO TAKE THE REINS. NOT FOREVER, BUT FOR NOW. DAD WOULDN'T WANT THINGS FALLING APART IN HIS ABSENCE.

CONSIDER IT DONE. I'LL KEEP THE CHAIR WARM WHILE YOU FIND HIM.

LOOK--I KNOW YOU AND I AIN'T ALWAYS SEEN EYE TO EYE--

BUT YOU AND HIM? YOU'RE THE CLOSEST THING I'VE EVER HAD TO FAMILY.

YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE--ANY-THING AT ALL. I'M HERE.

...

I APPRECIATE THAT. THE FEELING'S MUTUAL. I KNOW--

I KNOW I'M NOT ALWAYS THE EASIEST TO DEAL WITH--

BUT WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, AND MY BACK'S AGAINST THE WALL, THERE'S NO ONE I'D RATHER HAVE FIGHTING BY MY SIDE THAN YOU. I KNOW DAD FELT THE SAME WAY.

LOOK AT YOU GETTING ALL EMOTIONAL IN YOUR OLD AGE. DON'T MENTION IT.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHILE I'M PLAYING HEAD-MASTER?

THAT? THAT'S SIMPLE...

"I'M GOING HUNTING.

"I'M GOING TO FIND DAD.

" I NEED TO SAVE HIM FROM WHOEVER--*WHATEVER* THEY'VE DONE TO HIM.

"AND THEN?"

"I'M GOING TO MAKE THEM PAY."

YOU MADE IT. I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER.

COURSE I DID. WHAT YOU SEEING TODAY, MOTHER MAGDA?

I SEE THE WALLS BETWEEN WORLDS COLLAPSING. OLD WRONGS RIGHTED--AND THE SINS OF YESTERDAY BEING HELD TO ACCOUNT. THE END OF THE OLD WAYS, AND THE BIRTH OF THE NEW.

I SEE FIRE IN THE SKY--AND A SNAKE--A SNAKE ENCIRCLING THE WORLD.

I SEE IT-- THE END OF ALL THINGS--ON THE HORIZON--CRASHING TOWARDS US LIKE AN INEVITABLE WAVE.

GOOD...

"...I'M JUST GETTING STARTED."

CHAPTER SIX

SUBARCTICA

LF

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

IT'S FUNNY--I WAS FINE ALL WEEK. I BUSIED MYSELF, READYING MYSELF TO TAKE THE CHAIR--TAKE THE REINS OF THE SCHOOL--SO I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE THE TIME TO THINK.

BUT NOW THAT I FIND MYSELF HERE, ABOUT TO SPEAK TO THEM...

"...I FIND MYSELF WONDERING. WONDERING WHAT WORDS I MIGHT SAY THAT COULD EVER HOPE TO MAKE SENSE OF THE HARSH REALITY THEY'VE BEEN THRUST INTO.

"A WORLD WHERE THEIR HEADMASTER WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN--AND IS LIKELY DEAD--ALL OF IT UNFOLDING ON THESE VERY GROUNDS."

WELL, THAT'S SIMPLE MY FRIEND...

...YOU TELL THEM A LIE.

YOU TELL THEM A STORY...

"...ONE THAT WILL NOURISH THEM...

"...THAT WILL SUSTAIN THEM...

"ONE THAT WILL INSPIRE THEM."

I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU--THIS COMMENCEMENT SPEECH WILL NOT BE THE SAME AS USUAL.

YOU MAY BE YOUNG, BUT YOU ARE SMART, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE OTHERWISE--

WE FIND OURSELVES AT A CROSSROADS--A CRUCIBLE OF SORTS.

OUR LEADERS--OUR FOREFATHERS--ARE GONE. AND NOW ONLY WE ARE LEFT, WITH BIG SHOES TO FILL.

CYRUS BLACKHEART GAVE ME EVERYTHING...

"I WAS AN ORPHAN ON THE STREETS OF NIGHTSHADE ALLEY, HUSTLING AND ROBBING TOURISTS WHEN HE FOUND ME.

"I TRIED TO PINCH HIS WALLET. AND ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH IT.

"HE SAW SOMETHING IN ME. POTENTIAL.

"INSTEAD OF LOCKING ME UP AND THROWING AWAY THE KEY, HE BROUGHT ME INTO THE SCHOOL.

"HE GAVE ME A CHANCE WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD.

AND I'LL BE GODDAMNED IF I LET HIM DOWN IN THIS SCHOOL'S DARKEST MOMENT.

AND SO AS WE ALWAYS DO...AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEW YEAR...

"...WE RAISE OUR LIGHT TO THE SKY.

A DECLARATION OF INTENT...

THAT NO MATTER HOW HARD THE WORLD TRIES TO BREAK US...

"WE WILL BE THE LIGHT IN THE ENDLESS DARK.

"FOR WE ARE HOUSE BLACKHEART."

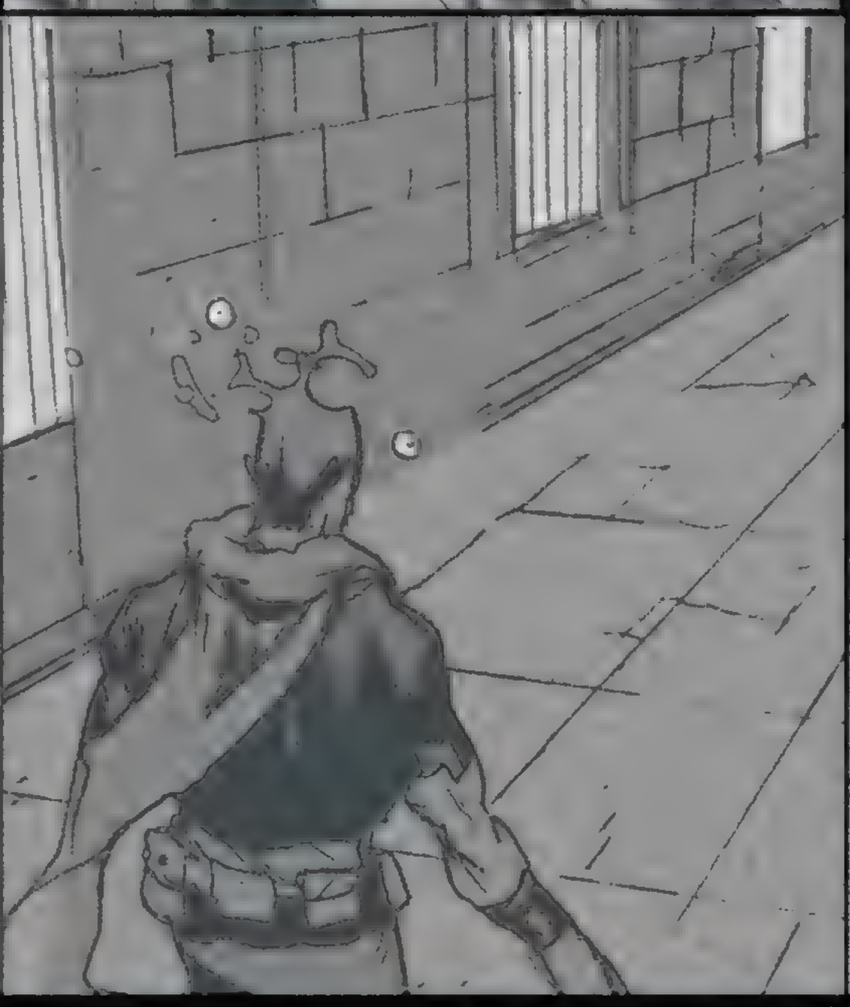
MOTEL

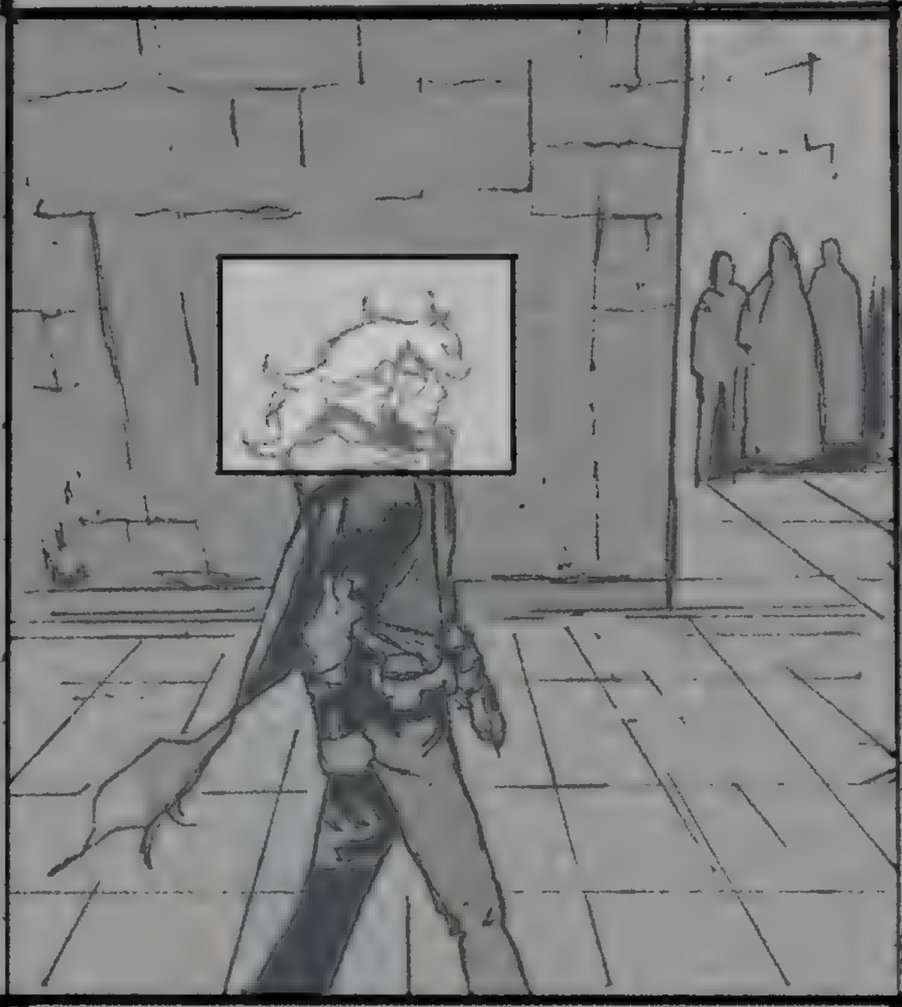
RUN IT AGAIN.

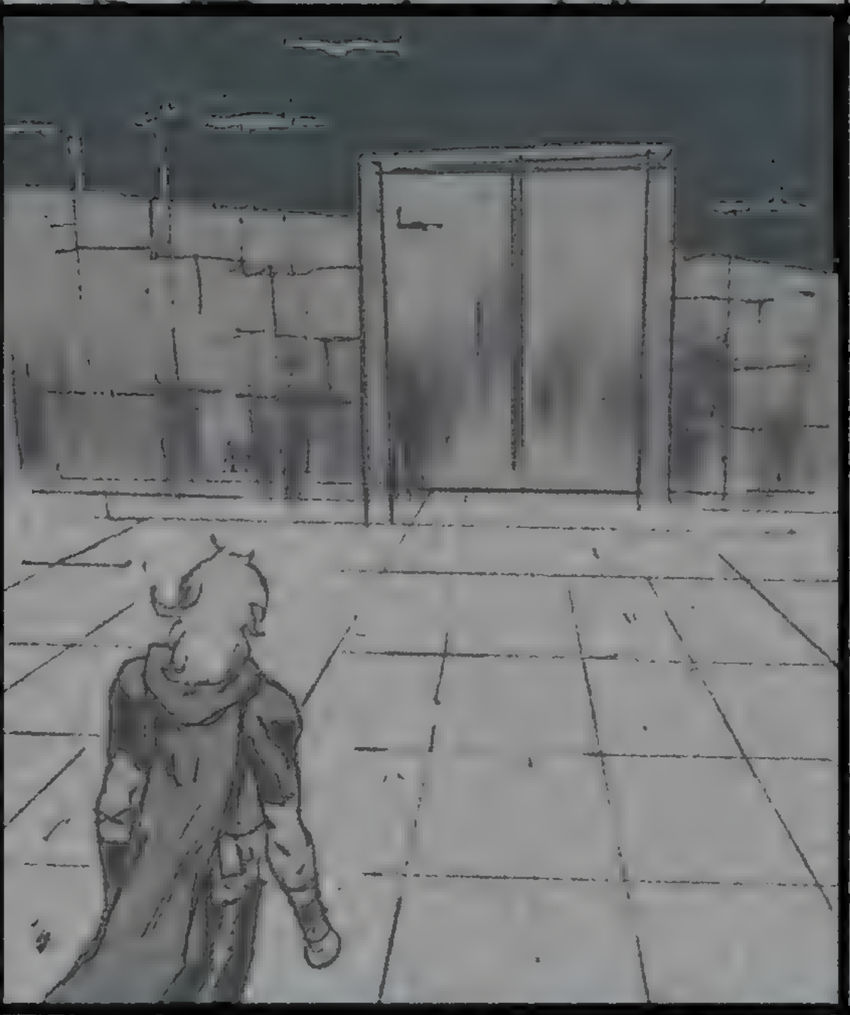
THAT'S THE SIXTH TIME IN A ROW. HOW MANY TIMES YOU GONNA PUT YOURSELF THROUGH THIS?
FBI

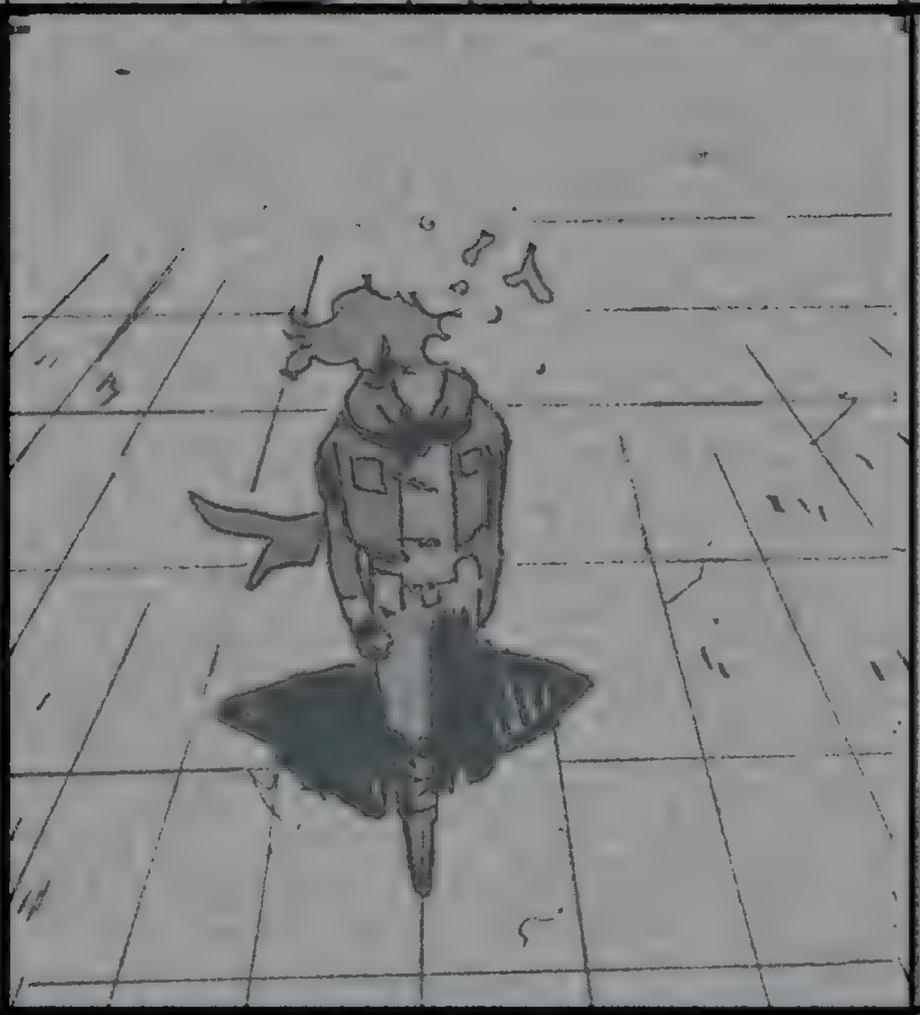
AS MANY AS IT TAKES.

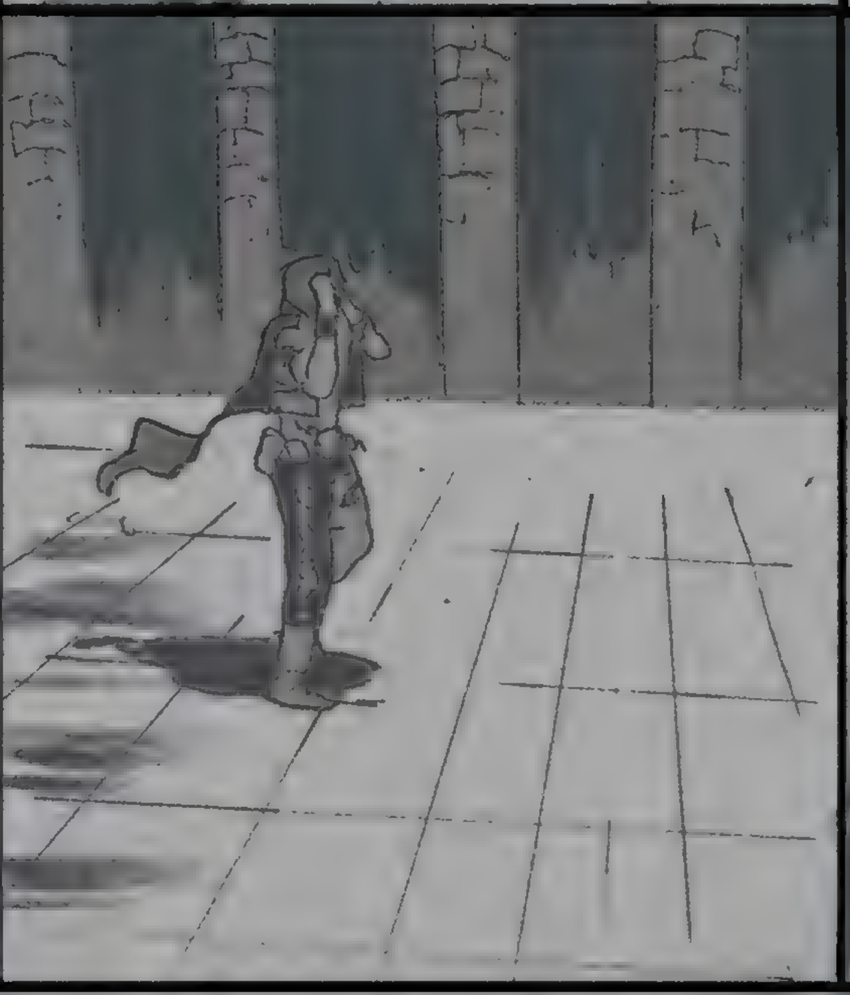
RUN IT AGAIN.

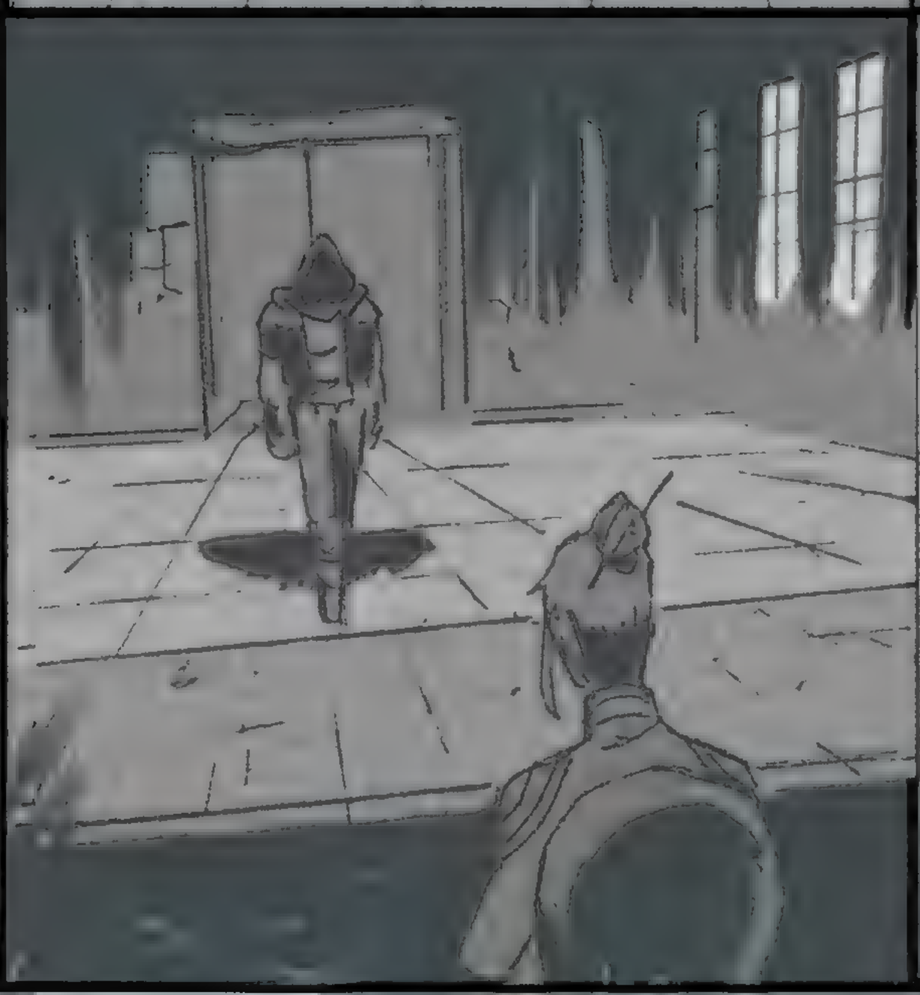


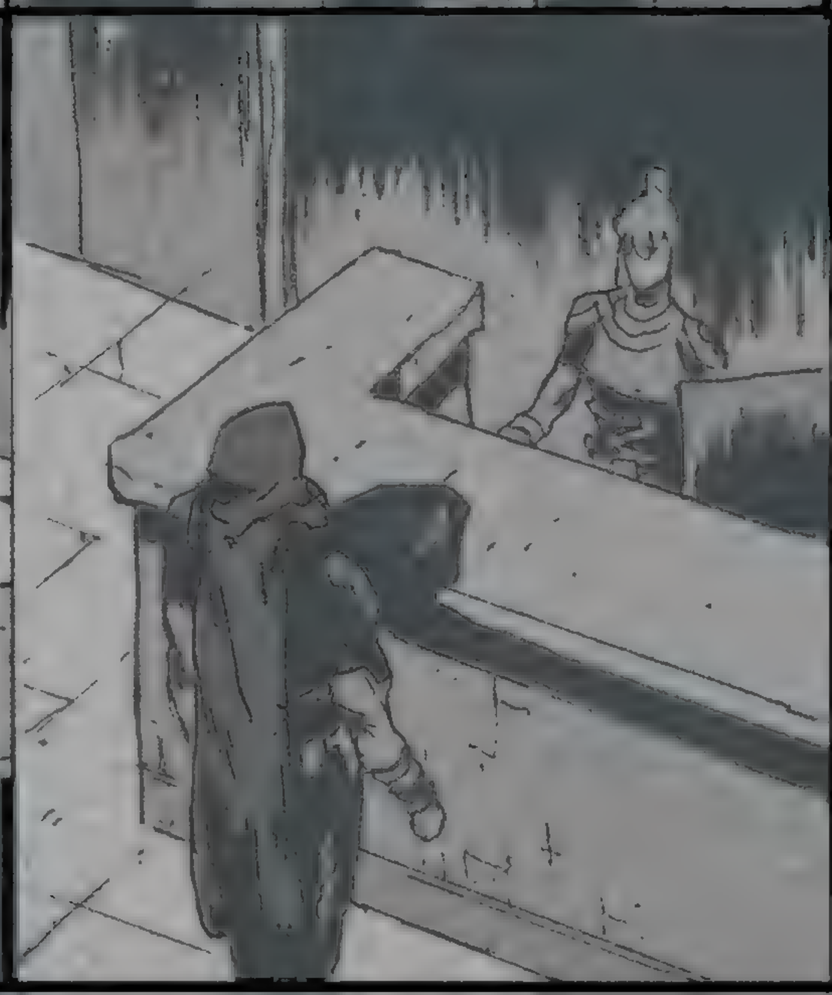












YOU SEE THAT?

WHAT?

FBI

NEAR THE END OF THE FOOTAGE-- THE CAMERA CATCHES HIM BEFORE WHATEVER THE ENCHANTMENT IS TAKES EFFECT--WE SEE HIM MID-TRANSFORMATION. SOME SORT OF ENCHANTMENT-DREAM GEOMETRY, MAYBE?

BEATS THE HELL OUT OF ME.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CALL BACK TO BLACK PILLAR AND REQUEST THEY SEND ME A TECHNICIAN THAT ISN'T A TOTAL FUCKING IDIOT? THAT'D BE HELPFUL.

HEY MAN--I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ON VAC--

ENOUGH--

ENOUGH. YOU'RE RELIEVED.

FINISHED CATALOGING THE SCENE AND WE STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO YOU.

LOOKS TO BE A PART OF THE ASSAILANT'S CLOAK. THAT WAS RIPPED OFF IN THE FIGHT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'LL BE BACK.

LOOKING FOR TRANSPORT TO THE MAINLAND-- KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND IT?

I'M SURE I COULD POINT YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

I NEED TO SPEAK TO CU. NOW.

AIN'T GOT NO WORD ON THE EGG YET. SHOULD BE SOON.

AIN'T HERE ABOUT THAT. NEED YOU TO POINT ME IN THE DIRECTION OF SOMETHING ELSE... SOMEONE ELSE.

I GOT WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, BUT THE QUESTION IS...

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY?

YOU WANNA TELL ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

IT'S KIND OF A WHOLE THING...NOT REALLY.

BUT I THINK I GOT SOME-THING. LOOKING FOR A BIKER BAR--SOMEWHERE IN THE LOWS--NAME CU RING ANY BELLS?

IT RINGS BELLS, BUT NOT ANY GOOD ONES...

"DOGS OF HELL. MAGIC BIKER GANG."

I'M GUESSING THIS BAR YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS THEIR HANGOUT--I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY...

"...BUT I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU, KID, RATHER NOT."

I DON'T LIKE THIS...

NOT ONE BIT.

I'LL BE FINE, ROBANELLI. DO ME A FAVOR...

HEAD BACK TO CASTLE BLACKHEART. KEEP WORKING THE CASE. I'LL DEAL WITH THEM. SEE WHAT I CAN COME UP WITH.

YOU'RE NUTS IF YOU THINK I'M SENDING YOU IN THERE ALONE.

TRUST ME...

...IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.

YOU LOST, KID?

NOW WHAT KIND OF WAY IS THAT TO GREET A PATRON. I'LL TAKE A WHISKEY ON THE ROCKS.

HERE'S WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN. I'M GONNA POUR YOU YOUR DRINK--ON THE HOUSE--

--AND THEN YOU'RE GONNA TURN AROUND AND GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE.

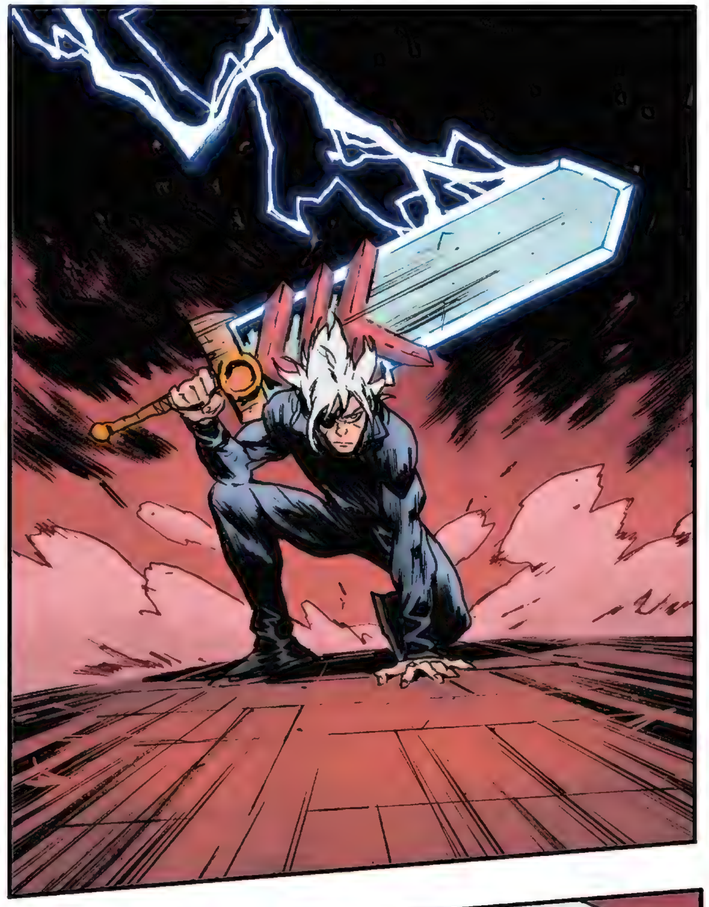
THIS AIN'T A PLACE THAT TAKES TOO KINDLY TO TOURISTS.

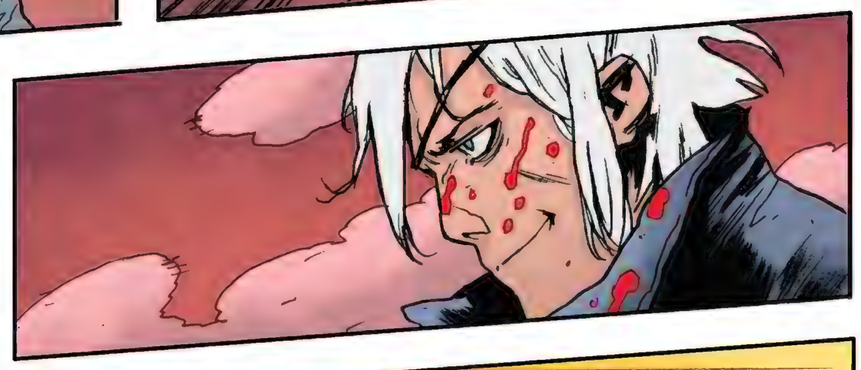
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER. AND GRAB YOUR BOSS--CU. I'D LIKE A WORD.

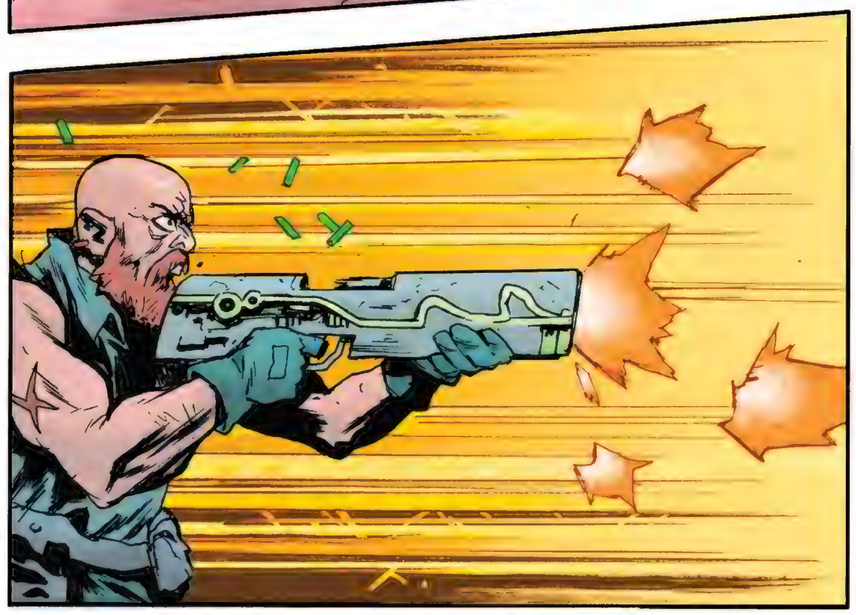
YOU'RE EITHER STUPID OR YOU GOT A DEATH WISH...

WHICH ONE IS IT?

NEITHER...







SO THE MIGHTY HENRY BLACKHEART IS MORTAL AFTER ALL.

THAT TICKLED A LITTLE BIT.

LET'S FINISH THIS.

NOW, GO GET YOUR BOSS...

...OR I'LL DO YOU NEXT.

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE, MISTER BLACKHEART...

IF IT'S A BOSS YOU FIND YOURSELF WANTING TO SPEAK TO, YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE PRESENCE OF ONE.

AND I SHOULD ADD--IT'S TRULY A BEAUTIFUL THING TO WITNESS YOU IN ACTION.

THE MIGHTY HENRY BLACKHEART.

THERE IS POETRY TO YOUR BARBARISM, MY FRIEND. VIOLENCE IS AN ART FORM, AND YOU-- ***YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE FOREMOST PRACTITIONERS OF IT, IN ALL OF CREATION.***

THIS MAN IS WANTED FOR QUESTIONING. I KNOW HE PASSED THROUGH HERE, AND I NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM.

I RECOGNIZE HIM, YES--BUT HE'S A BUSINESS ASSOCIATE-- AND WHAT KIND OF PARTNER WOULD I BE IF I JUST UP AND SANG TO YOU ABOUT HIS LOCATION?

...

YOU ARE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND THIS MAN-- OR ELSE I AM GOING TO MAKE IT MY NEW HOBBY TO FUCK WITH YOU AND YOUR LITTLE BIKER CLUB HERE.

AND I AM GOING TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE TIME, AND HOUSE BLACKHEART'S NEAR INFINITE RESOURCES, INTO MAKING YOUR LIFE AND BUSINESS A LIVING HELL.

NOW-- NOW YOU'RE MAKING A GOOD POINT.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM, BUT...

...I CAN POINT YOU IN THE DIRECTION OF SOMEONE WHO DOES.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME?

I RAN THE ADDRESS YOU GAVE ME AND IT'S IN OUR DATABASE.

HOME BASE OF PERSON OF INTEREST THEY CALL ***THE ARCHIVIST.*** HE'S HALFWAY BETWEEN AN ANTIQUITIES EXPERT AND A MAGICAL ARMS DEALER.

GUY'S BAD NEWS-- WE'VE BRUSHED UP AGAINST HIM A HANDFUL OF TIMES. LET ME SEND YOU BACKUP.

COME HERE WITH AN ARMY, WE'LL JUST SCARE HIM. SEND HIM INTO THE WIND. I'LL HANDLE THIS...

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

THE ANDROMEDANS HEAR YOUR VOICE LIKE DISTANT AMUSEMENT PARK MUSIC CONVERGED ON BY AMBULANCE SIRENS AND THEY UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.

THEY'RE ON YOUR SIDE. THEY FORGIVE YOU.

DJ- THE WHITE FIRES OF VENUS

RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR.

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU, BLACKHEART?

I'M JUST HERE TO TALK. THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO GO SIDEWAYS...

I HAVE EYES EVERYWHERE, BLACKHEART--I SAW THE WAY YOU *TALKED* AT THAT BIKER BAR...

...THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER.

NOT TOO SHABBY, EH...

"IT WAS VIVISECTED FROM A DEMONOID...ONE THAT WAS ENSLAVED BY SOME SHADOW BRANCH OF THE US GOVERNMENT.

"I COULD FEEL THE SEED OF SOME GREAT DESTRUCTION EMANATING OFF THE HAND...

"...LIKE THE PRESENCE OF SOME GREAT CALAMITY WAITING TO BE REALIZED...

"I'LL ADMIT, GRAFTING IT ONTO MY OWN HAND WAS PAINFUL AND ARDUOUS...BUT NOW THAT IT'S FINALLY TAKEN ROOT--"

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL IT WAS MADE FOR ME.

COOL STORY.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU FEEL WHEN I CUT IT OFF YOU.

ALRIGHT. FELT THAT ONE.

AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO FEEL A WHOLE LOT MORE!

NO.

I'M NOT.

YOU MADE THE SAME MISTAKE EVERYONE DOES.

YOU THINK I'M WEAK.

YOU THINK I NEED THE SWORD.

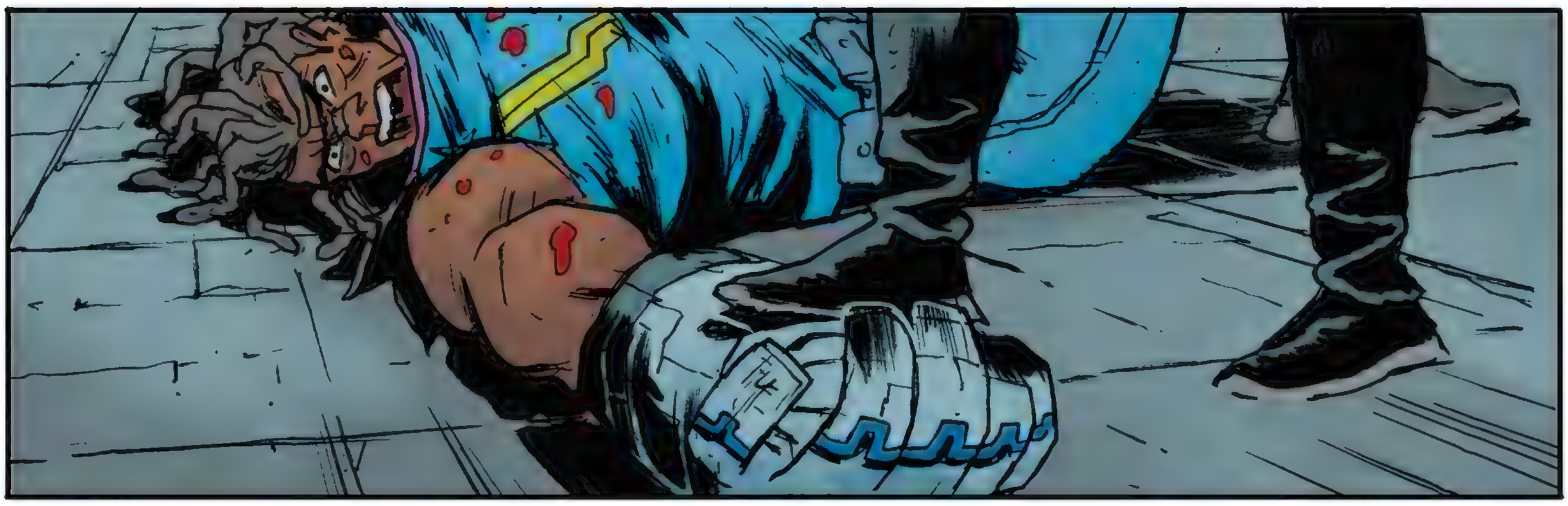
WHEN THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T.

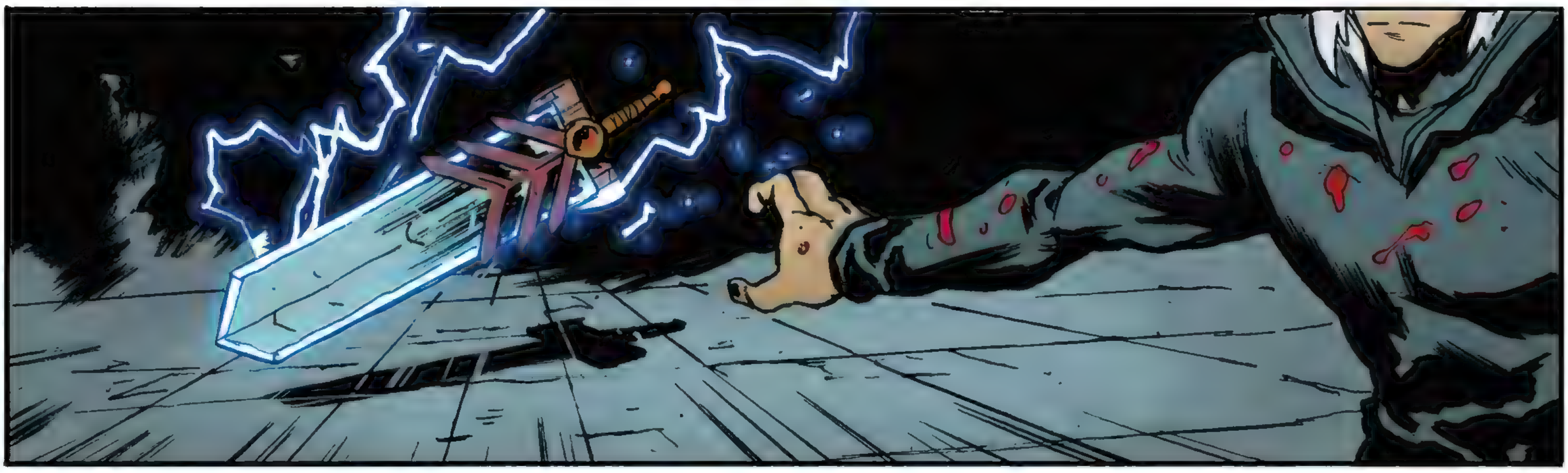
THE SWORD IS FOR YOU.

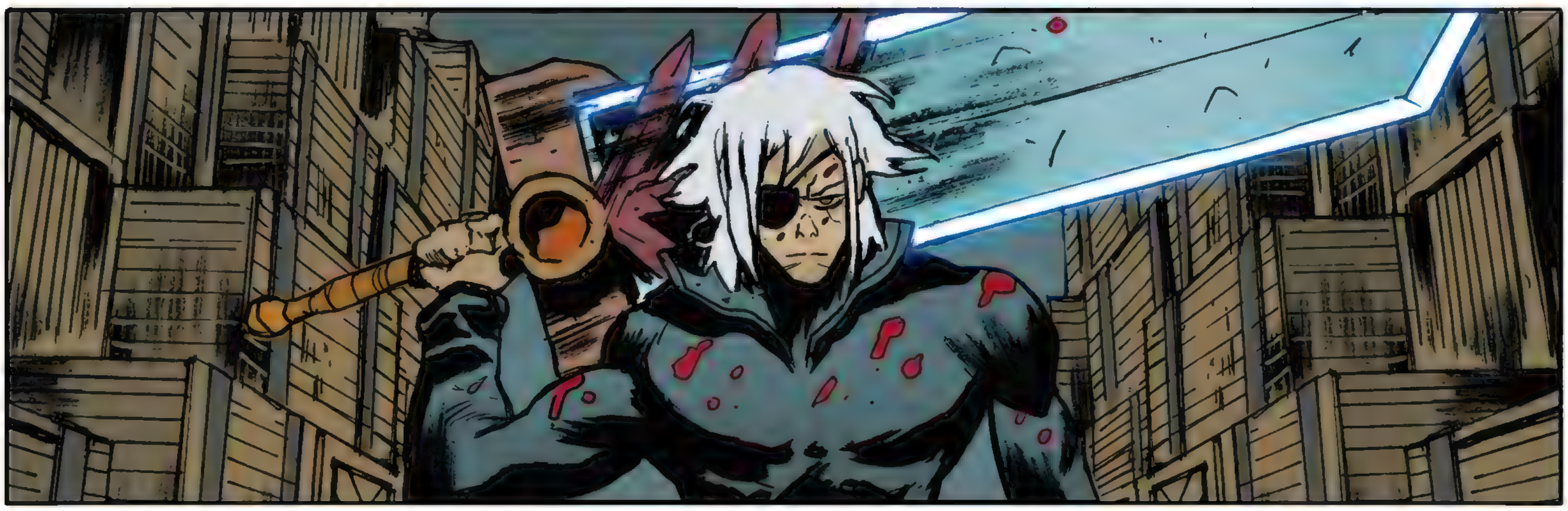
THIS IS SURGERY. AND IT'S MY SCALPEL.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO DO THIS BRUTAL-- DO THIS MESSY...

...I CAN DO THAT TOO.







TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW! OR I CUT IT OFF.

YOU WOULDN'T DAR--

TRY ME!

YOU THINK I'M PLAYING HERE!? TALK!

FUCK YOU--

ARRRGGGGHHH! ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT!

"I'LL TALK."

YOU SHOULD HAVE WAITED FOR BACKUP.

HE WAS WAITING FOR ME WHEN I GOT THERE. ANY LONGER AND HE'D HAVE BEEN IN THE WIND. I'M FINE.

THIS WHOLE ENDEAVOR FEELS POINTLESS IF IT'S JUST GOING TO END WITH ANOTHER BLACKHEART IN A BODY BAG.

ENOUGH. I'M NO KID. I'M THE LEADER OF HOUSE BLACKHEART AND THIS WAS MY CHOICE.

NOTED. WELL--DID YOU GET WHAT YOU WENT FOR?

YEP. HE SANG LIKE A CANARY...

"...ONCE HE DECIDED HE'D ENDURED ENOUGH PAIN."

I DIDN'T HAVE WHAT HE NEEDED. NOT RIGHT AWAY. TOOK ME SOME TIME TO SOURCE IT. TO FIND THE INVISIBILITY CLOAK. HE HAD ME SHIP IT. SOME PO BOX...

"...IN *SUBARCTICA.*"

"SUBARCTICA."

YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

YEP...

THE DRIFTS.

WE CAN'T USE THE GATES TO TRAVEL THERE. TOO MUCH EM INTERFERENCE FROM THE BOREALIS. SO WE'LL HAVE TO GO THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

I'D TELL YOU TO WAIT--TO LET ME CALL THE CAVALRY IN-- BUT WHO ARE WE KIDDING, YOU AREN'T GOING TO DO THAT. SO I'LL TELL YOU THIS INSTEAD...

"...BE CAREFUL, BROTHER."

WELL I'LL BE DAMNED...

...HENRY FUCKING BLACKHEART.

YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE SHOWING YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AFTER THE WAY YOU LEFT THINGS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SYDNEY?

"MAD I NEVER CALLED YOU BACK?"

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, BLACKHEART?

I'M CALLING IN MY FAVOR.

WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D DARKEN MY DOORSTEP WITH THAT REQUEST...

ALRIGHT, HOTSHOT, WHERE ARE WE HEADED...?

"SOMEWHERE FAR AND DANGEROUS, JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT..."

NEXT STOP: THE DRIFTS.

CAN YOU FEEL IT?

YOU CAN, CAN'T YOU? JUST LIKE ME.

ACROSS ALL THAT DISTANCE-- ACROSS THE ENDLESS VOID.

HE'S COMING FOR YOU.

I WONDER WHAT HE'D THINK...

...IF HE COULD SEE THE STATE YOU'RE IN.

CHAPTER SEVEN

ACROSS THE DRIFT

LF

SUBARCTICA.

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE. KEEPS A PO BOX HERE. NUMBER 5150.

I NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM.

I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF GIVING AWAY INFORMATION ABOUT GUESTS.

I WASN'T ASKING.

I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF HOUSE BLACKHEART.

I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE INDIVIDUAL IN POSSESSION OF THAT POST OFFICE BOX HAS CRITICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION.

SO LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR--

YOU ARE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW. ONE WAY, OR ANOTHER.

YOU'RE FUNNY, YOU KNOW THAT?

KNOWING WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...ABOUT THE VERY CALAMITIES HE'S AUTHORED--THE REASON YOU SEEK HIM...WHO DO YOU IMAGINE I'M MORE AFRAID OF, HIM... *OR YOU?*

BUT IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY...

HE TOLD ME YOU'D BE COMING... LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU AND EVERYTHING.

WHICH IS?

...

TELL HIM THAT I'LL GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS. THE THING HE DESIRES MOST, IF HE CAN MAKE IT TO ME...

THAT I'M WAITING FOR HIM...

"ACROSS THE DRIFTS."

TIME MOVES DIFFERENTLY ACROSS THE DRIFTS.

PAST AND PRESENT MOVING SEAMLESSLY BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER--ONE MOMENT DRIFTING INTO THE NEXT--AS UNRELENTINGLY AS THE EVER-PRESENT SNOW.

THE THIN LINES BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL TEMPORALITY COLLAPSING ENTIRELY UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE UNRELENTING STORM.

DAD?

DAD!?

HENRY, I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE...

THIS IS NIHLAS. HE'S GOING TO BE STAYING WITH US FOR A WHILE.

NICE TO MEET YOU, MAN.

UH, YEAH. YOU TOO.

MEMORY IS A PRISON, HE THINKS TO HIMSELF.

AN ANCHOR, WEIGHING HIM DOWN. CHAINING HIM TO THE PAST.

HE'LL HAVE TO LET GO OF IT. ALL OF IT. IF HE'S GOING TO SURVIVE. TO DO WHAT HE NEEDS TO.

SO WHY IS HE STILL HOLDING ON TO IT?

HE'S ALMOST GLAD WHEN HE SEES IT...

THE WENDIGO.

SOMETHING TANGIBLE, REAL.

SOMETHING HE CAN CONQUER.

LET'S DO THIS!

SOMETHING HE CAN KILL.

YOU FUCKER!

STOP IT!

NO!

FINE! HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU DO WITHOUT YOUR FUCKING EYES.

AGHHHH!

ENOUGH!

WHOEVER BUCKLES FIRST BUYS LUNCH.

HOPE YOU'VE BEEN SAVING UP, NIHLAS. 'CAUSE BOY DO I HAVE AN APPETITE TODAY.

THINK OF TIME AS A FOURTH DIMENSIONAL CONSTRUCT.

WHEN WE REACH INTO THE *TELUM MAJESTERIUM*-- WE BRIEFLY BREAK AND REASSEMBLE TIME--SO THAT WE MIGHT ARM OURSELVES WITH THE TRADITIONS OF HUNTERS PAST.

AGAIN.

CLEAN YOUR PLATES.

I THINK WE NEED MORE SHOTS.

FUNNY. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME THING. WHAT DO YOU LADIES THINK?

SHOTS!

CHEERS, BROTHER.

CHEERS.

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE TAKE THIS PARTY BACK TO CASTLE BLACKHEART?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.

IS YOUR DAD GOING TO BE THERE? HE'S KIND OF HOT. I'VE HAD THE YOUNG STUD. I'M THINKING NOW I WANT THE OLD BULL.

GIRL, YOU ARE WILD.

WHAT CAN I SAY, I KNOW WHAT I LIKE.

VAL, YOU'RE GROSS.

HELLO.

GET YOUR ASS HOME. NOW.

WHAT THE...

YOU TWO BETTER NOT BE DRUNK.

NO. WE'RE FINE. JUST HAD A COUPLE SMALL BEERS.

YEAH. TOTALLY.

JESUS. SOBER UP.

WE'VE GOT MASS FLOODING IN VALENCIA. TYRION HAS ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO HIM.

INITIAL ANALYSIS SUGGESTS WE'RE DEALING WITH SOME SORT OF WATER-SPIRIT BREAKTHROUGH. WE'RE LIKELY LOOKING AT A KELPIE, A RUSALKA, ***MAYBE EVEN A TANIWHA.*** YOU TWO NEED TO GET OUT THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...

"TAKE THE GATE. AND GET TO WORK."

BLACKHEART.

YOU...

I STILL OWE YOU. FOR THE HOLE YOU PUT IN MY HEAD. AND TAKING MY EYE.

I SUPPOSE YOU DO.

SO... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

SO...

...WHICH ONE IS IT?

ALL OF THE ABOVE. WE'VE GOT A KELPIE, A RUSALKA *AND* A TANIWHA HERE.

WHAT? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

GOT TO BE SOMEONE--SOMETHING--BEHIND THE SCENES PULLING THE STRINGS. COAXING THEM THROUGH.

LOOK!

OVER THERE!

NOW ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE...

BUT THIS AIN'T OVER. I'M FAR FROM THROUGH WITH YOU.

YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME, BLACKHEART.

SBAM

CAREFUL. COULD BE ANYWHERE.

I KNOW. NOT MY FIRST RODEO.

I GOT UPSTAIRS. YOU SCAN THIS FLOOR.

MY GOD, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THEM...

ALAESTER. CASKA. YOU'RE THEIR SPITTING IMAGE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BUT THIS ENDS NOW. CALL OFF YOUR CREATURES.

I WONDER. DID THE OTHER LIVE TOO? I MISS MAGDA.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'LL TELL YOU AGAIN. STAND DOWN!

THEY KILLED THEM-- THEY KILLED ALL OF US.

AND THE ONES THEY DIDN'T KILL-- THEY TURNED INTO HIS SLAVES.

CONTROL. IT WAS ONLY EVER ABOUT CONTROL FOR THEM. AND YOU'RE EVIDENCE OF THAT...

A WELL-TRAINED ATTACK DOG.

HAVEN'T YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE YOU REALLY CAME FROM?

WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A BABE IN THE WOODS... QUITE THE STORY, ISN'T IT? *WHAT A FUCKING CLICHE.*

THE TRUE STORY OF HOW CYRUS GOT YOU IS MUCH DARKER AND BLOODIER, *HENRY.*

WHAT...

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THE END OF THE MAGIC CIVIL WAR.

"I'M TALKING ABOUT HOW THE HUNTERS REALLY CONSOLIDATED THEIR POWER--ABOUT HOW MAGIC REALLY DIED!"

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WE'VE GOT PEOPLE DYING OUT THERE, HENRY!

IF YOU WON'T FINISH HIM I WILL!

NO!

ARGHHH!

ENOUGH!

I'VE SEEN THIS MOMENT IN MY DREAMS.

I'VE LIVED IT COUNTLESS TIMES.

I'VE BEEN WAITING.

NO!

FINISH IT. COMPLETE THE CYCLE.

GAS STATION

GOOD! YOU MADE IT.

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?

I WAS INTERROGATING THE SUBJECT AND NIHLAS KILLED HIM BEFORE I COULD GET WHAT I WANTED OUT OF HIM.

YOU WERE LETTING HIM RUN WILD WHILE PEOPLE WERE DYING OUT THERE!

HE KNEW THINGS ABOUT ME--ABOUT US!

HE WAS TRYING TO GET INTO YOUR HEAD!

I'M NOT SOME DUMB KID! I KNOW WHEN I'M BEING LIED TO. THERE WAS TRUTH IN WHAT HE WAS SAYING. I WAS TRYING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT!

HE WAS STALLING YOU SO HE COULD INFLICT MORE DAMAGE. PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE YOU HESITATED!

YOU KNOW WHAT--FUCK THIS!

I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY THAT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT...

BROTHER.

YOU'RE NO BROTHER OF MINE.

RELEASE MY FATHER-- AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...

...I'LL LET YOU LIVE.

HE RUNS FAR AND FAST FROM THE CONSEQUENCE.

FROM THE MEMORIES OF THE MISSION AND THE WORDS THAT STRANGE OLD WARLOCK SPOKE TO HIM.

BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES, HE CAN'T STOP THE MEMORIES PLAYING OVER AND OVER IN HIS HEAD.

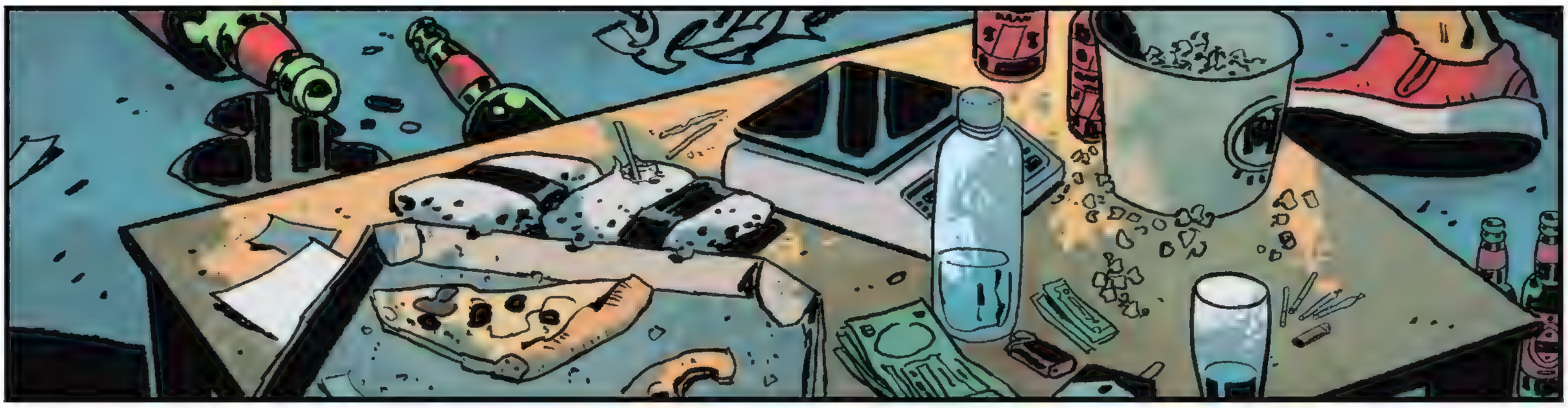
TRUTH HAS A RESONANCE.

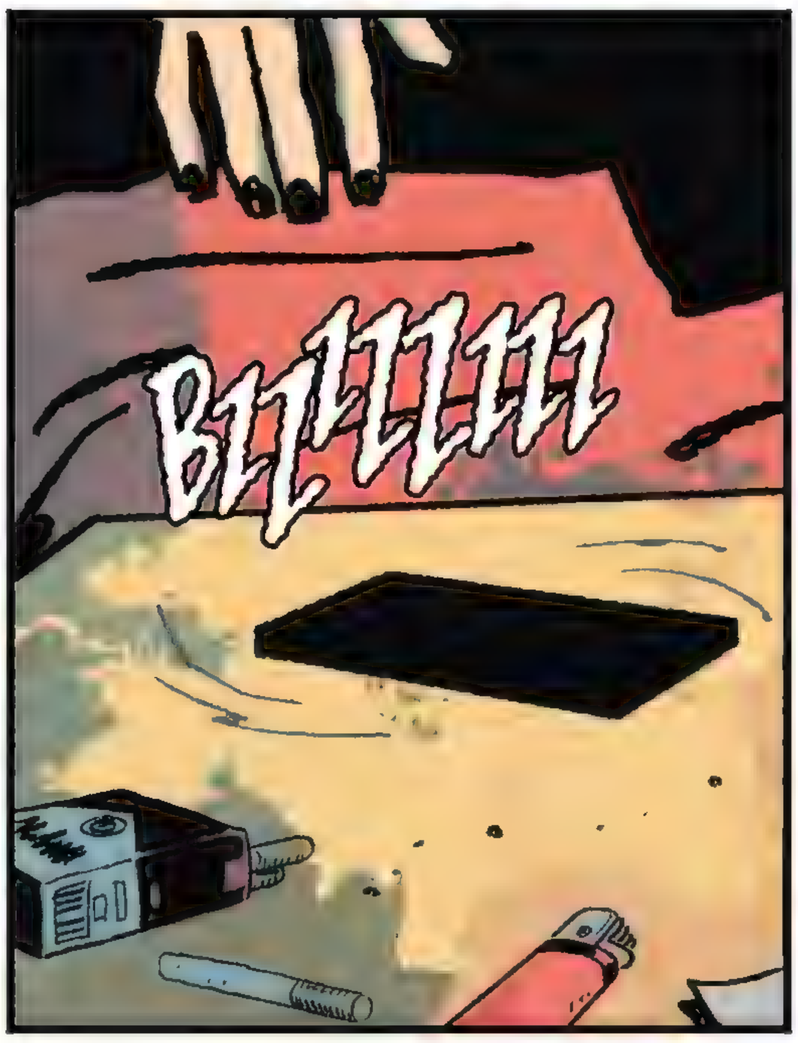
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DROWN OUT.

BUT HE SURE DOES TRY.

LIQUOR. DRUGS. WOMEN. MEN.

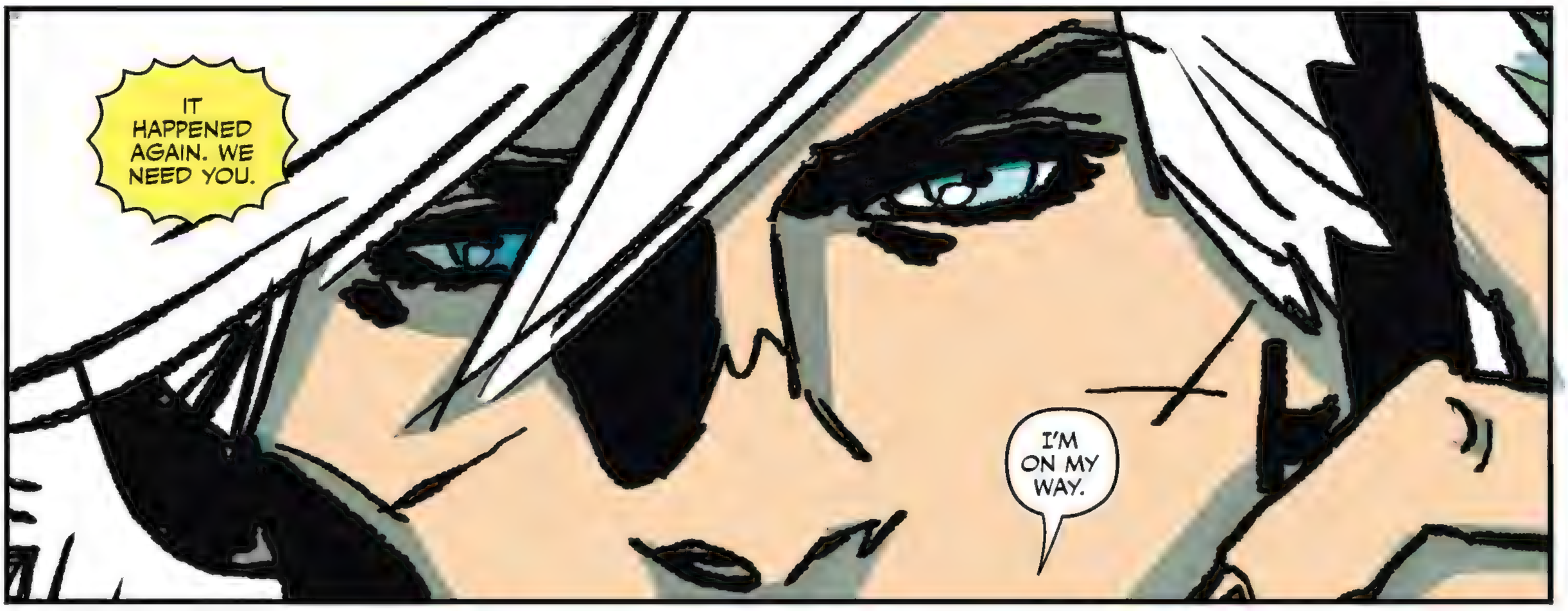
ANYTHING...TO ESCAPE HIS THOUGHTS.




BLLLLLL

low beer

ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR LITTLE BENDER?


IT HAPPENED AGAIN. WE NEED YOU.
I'M ON MY WAY.

IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU. BUT I'D RATHER GIVE YOU THE TRUTH.

ENOUGH WORDS...

...LET'S FINISH THIS!

OH,
GOOD...

...YOU'RE UP.

CHAPTER EIGHT

NIGHT OF THE KNIVES

LF

LET'S FINISH THIS.

I TOLD YOU ALREADY.

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT. WHERE'S MY FATHER?

THAT MAN...

...IS NOT YOUR FATHER.

HE BUTCHERED YOUR PARENTS-- *OUR* PARENTS-- LIKE ANIMALS.

YOU'RE NO BROTHER OF MINE.

YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR DENIAL. DEEP DOWN, YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.

YOUR HISTORY WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ELABORATE FICTION.

NO!

YOU'RE GETTING EMOTIONAL. SLOPPY.

DO YOU KNOW HOW EASY IT WOULD BE FOR ME TO CUT YOU DOWN RIGHT NOW?

BUT I STAY MY HAND BECAUSE, LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU AND I, HENRY-- WE'RE KIN.

CHILDREN OF MURDERED PARENTS.

ORPHANS IN A WORLD THAT *HATES* THEM.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M TALKING ABOUT A LIE.

"A STORY YOU'VE BEEN TOLD YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

"A BABE IN THE WOODS. THAT CYRUS BLACKHEART JUST HAPPENS TO STUMBLE ON.

"I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE WITCHES AND THE WIZARDS.

"I'M TALKING ABOUT HOW THE GREAT HUNTERS REALLY SEIZED POWER.

"I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED AT THE END OF THE MAGIC CIVIL WAR."

AND IF YOU STOP AND LISTEN, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

ALL OF IT.

"IT WAS A WARM NIGHT. TERRA, THE WORLD BENEATH, WAS BLANKETED IN THE HEAT OF SUMMER. EACH DAY SEEMING TO EXTEND ENDLESSLY INTO THE NEXT.

"OUR PARENTS--OUR KIN--WERE ENVELOPED IN THE CALMNESS OF A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY. THEY HAD JUST WON A WAR. AND THEY WERE CELEBRATING.

"THEY'D PUT AN END TO THE SCHEMES OF ***INFINITUM ARCANE***, HIS ARMY--AND HIS PLOT TO BREAK DOWN THE WALLS BETWEEN WORLDS AND COLONIZE THE WORLD ABOVE--***EARTH***.

"ARCANE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE GREATEST WARLOCKS OF ALL TIME--THE BATTLE HAD BEEN A BLOODY AND HARD-FOUGHT CAMPAIGN, BUT THANKS TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE GREAT HUNTERS, THEY HAD WON."

"POINT IS, THEY'D LET THEIR GUARD DOWN.

"THEY WERE AMONGST FRIENDS.

"OUR NANNY, *MAGDA*, HAD JUST PUT US TO BED WHEN IT HAPPENED...

TUMP TUMP

"THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

"AND IN CAME THE GREAT HUNTERS THEMSELVES. CYRUS, TYRION, TAKAHASHI KITSUNE, GROOTSLANG, AND TEKHUMIAVI.

"THEY WERE WELCOMED. WITH OPEN ARMS.

"PLEASANTRIES WERE EXCHANGED, DRINKS WERE POURED, AND BREAD WAS BROKEN."

"AND THEN IT STARTED.

"THE GREAT HUNTERS EXCHANGED KNOWING GLANCES--

"THEN DREW THEIR ARMS--

"AND STARTED KILLING EVERYONE...

"DRAPED IN THE SAME ENCHANTMENTS THAT HAD PROTECTED THEM DURING THE MAGICAL CIVIL WAR--THIS WAS HARDLY A FAIR FIGHT.

"THE WITCHES AND THE WARLOCKS FOUGHT--THEY FOUGHT LIKE HELL--BUT THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE GREAT HUNTERS."

"OUR PARENTS WERE THE LAST STANDING...HEROES TO WARLOCKS THE WORLD OVER.

"THEY FOUGHT LIKE HELL.

"UPSTAIRS, MOTHER MAGDA RAN AS FAST AS HER FEET WOULD CARRY HER.

"BUT WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT WHERE SHE WAS GOING, SHE FOUND HERSELF FACED WITH AN IMPOSSIBLE CONUNDRUM--"

"SHE COULD ONLY FIT ONE BABY IN HER ARMS. WHO WOULD SHE SAVE?

"ALEISTER ALABASTER THE SECOND--NAMED FOR HIS FATHER, AND HIS HEAD BLANKETED WITH THE SAME COAT OF WHITE HAIR. *YOU.*

"OR ME--EDGE--HIS RAVEN-HAIRED BROTHER, THE SPITTING IMAGE OF MOTHER--CASKA.

"SHE HEARD THE FIGHTING GROWING NEAR, REACHED FOR THE NEAREST CHILD TO HER, AND SAID A SILENT VOW TO HERSELF--TO RETURN FOR THE SECOND.

"SHE'S HALFWAY THROUGH THE HIDDEN PASSAGE--THE ONE THE ALABASTERS MADE TO ESCAPE JUST SUCH AN ATTACK, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE WAR--WHEN IT HAPPENS

"THE HALLWAY IN FRONT OF HER ERUPTS--SHRAPNEL EXPLODING IN EVERY WHICH DIRECTION...

"THE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY THE NEAR-APOCALYPTIC FIGHT UNFOLDING BELOW--BETWEEN CYRUS AND ALEISTER.

"IT TAKES HER EYES."

"THE WORLD GOES BLACK...

"...AND THEN IT HAPPENS.

"SHE CAN SEE AGAIN, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT.

"SHE CAN SEE THE SPACES BETWEEN MOMENTS--BETWEEN WORLDS--BETWEEN ONE POSSIBLE FUTURE AND THE NEXT--AND OBSERVE TIME AS IT ARCS AND BENDS IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, EACH CHANGE IN DIRECTION GIVING BIRTH TO A NEW UNIVERSE--ONE OF MANY AMONGST THE INFINITE.

"IT'S OVERWHELMING--LIKE A SECOND BIRTH.

"BUT SHE KEEPS MOVING--TRUDGING FORWARD TO SAFETY."

SHE'S THE ONLY REASON I SURVIVED.

IF ALL THAT'S TRUE--AND THE GREAT HUNTERS ARE SUCH BUTCHERS-- WHY AM I STILL HERE?

I OFTEN WONDERED ABOUT IT MYSELF. ALL I KNOW IS...

"...THAT WHEN CYRUS WAS DONE BUTCHERING OUR PARENTS, HE WANDERED UPSTAIRS...

"...AND FOUND A WHITE-HAIRED BABE, LYING INNOCENTLY IN A CRIB.

"EITHER HE FOUND HIMSELF SUDDENLY IN POSSESSION OF A CONSCIENCE, AND SPARED THE CHILD...

"...OR HE SAW IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY-- TO CLAIM AN HEIR."

BASED ON EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER, I'D WAGER THE SECOND.

EVEN IF THAT'S ALL TRUE--WHICH I DOUBT--HOW ARE YOU ANY BETTER?

"YOU KILLED AN INNOCENT WOMAN.

"STUDENTS AND CHILDREN WERE INJURED DURING THE FIGHT THAT YOU INITIATED...

"...AND THEN YOU ATTEMPTED TO KILL MY FATHER."

THERE'S BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS AS WELL.

NO ONE'S HANDS STAY CLEAN IN WAR.

AND DON'T KID YOURSELF. *THIS IS A WAR.*

RENOUNCE THE GREAT HUNTERS-- AND TAKE YOUR TRUE NAME, ***ALEISTER.***

JOIN ME AND WE WILL HAVE REVENGE FOR OUR PARENTS-- OUR PEOPLE. AND THE WORLD ABOVE.

NEVER.

I'D HOPED I COULD MAKE YOU SEE THE LIGHT.

BUT I SEE NOW...

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THIS ENDS!

DIE!

YOU FIRST!

YOU'RE ACTUALLY GIVING ME A CHALLENGE HERE...

...I'M SURPRISED. LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST ONE SWORD.

LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST TWO.

HE'S FAST.
TOO FAST.

NEED TO--

ENOUGH!

ARGGGGGHHHHH!

YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO ME.

YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF.

KRAKK

FLY FREE, FLAMEHEART.

TOKYO. NOW.

THE HARMONICS ARE OFF.

A DISCORDANT MELODY IS STILL A MELODY.

CORRECT...

...WE'LL USE THE OLD LANGUAGE.

WHAT--

WHERE AM I?

I KNOW THIS MUST BE ALARMING, HENRY. BUT I PROMISE YOU YOU'RE AMONGST FRIENDS.

TAKAHASHI. I'M--I'M IN JAPAN?

YES. THE PHOENIX-- FLAMEHEART-- BROUGHT YOU HERE.

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, THAT PHOENIX FOLLOWED MY FATHER AROUND LIKE HIS SHADOW. THEY TOLD ME IT WAS GONE--KILLED IN THE BATTLE AT BLACKHEART CASTLE.

THINGS HAVE A WAY OF COMING AROUND IN THE END, I FIND. DID YOUR FATHER EVER TELL YOU THE STORY OF HOW HE CAME INTO POSSESSION OF FLAMEHEART?

I DON'T THINK HE DID. NO.

"IN A PAST LIFE--BEFORE I WAS A HUNTER--I WAS BOKKA, A PORTER. I TRANSPORTED GOODS UP THE MOUNTAINS, TO ISOLATED REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

"IT WAS A TOUGH JOB--BUT A LIVING--IN A TIME WHEN IT WAS HARD TO EARN ONE.

"ONE DAY, ON ONE OF MY TRIPS, I HEARD SOMETHING... CRIES FOR HELP COMING FROM A CAVE.

"I FOUND THERE--TOURISTS--SEVERAL OF THEM FROM A NEARBY HOTSPRINGS--HAVING BEEN CAPTURED. TRAPPED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT. *AN ONI.*

"I FOUGHT THE CREATURE...

"...AND SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO SLAY IT."

"IT WAS THERE AFTER, AMONGST 1000 YEARS OF TREASURES, I FOUND IT...

"ALONGSIDE WHAT WOULD BECOME MY BLADE, THE MYTHICAL BLOOD SWORD, MASAMUNE...

"THE BIRD WAS CAGED-- LIKE SOME HOUSEHOLD PET.

"...I OPENED THE CAGE EXPECTING IT TO FLY AWAY IN AN INSTANT, BUT IT STOOD THERE HOVERING KNOWINGLY.

"IT FOLLOWED ME FOR YEARS AFTER THAT, HENRY...

"UNTIL THE UNIFICATION OF THE GREAT HUNTERS-- WHEN I GIFTED THE PHOENIX TO YOUR FATHER. A GESTURE OF GOODWILL TO STRENGTHEN OUR NEWFOUND PARTNERSHIP.

"A GESTURE TO BIND US."

I BELIEVE NOW THE BIRD WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE WITH HIM-- WAITING TO BE WITH YOU--IN YOUR GREAT MOMENT OF NEED.

...

WELL AREN'T YOU A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES...

HENRY BLACKHEART, LIVING AND BREATHING.

NIHLAS... DID YOU GET HIM?

RIGHT TO IT THEN, I'LL JUST RIP THE BANDAID OFF THEN.

NO. WE DIDN'T...

"I ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER YOU DID, WITH THE ARMY OF HOUSE BLACKHEART IN TOW...

"WE FOLLOWED THE BLOODSTREWN TRAIL FROM YOUR BATTLE TO A LARGE CAVERNOUS STRUCTURE..."

"INSIDE WE FOUND EVIDENCE OF AN ENTIRE VILLAGE--A NOMADIC SOCIETY THAT HAD BEEN LIVING THERE FOR PERIODS OF YEARS... MAYBE EVEN A DECADE.

"I EVEN FOUND WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE OUR ASSAILANT'S RESIDENCE...

"...AND EVIDENCE OF A SHATTERED *CHRYSALIS.*"

A CHRYSALIS. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS POWER. THE MAGIC. ALL OF IT.

I KNOW. I'VE CATALOGUED ALL THE EVIDENCE. YOU AND I WILL GO THROUGH IT ONCE YOU'RE BACK ON YOUR FEET AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE HIM DOWN. THIS IS DARK ADVANCED MAGIC WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE AND WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL.

EDGE. HIS NAME IS EDGE.

I KNOW THIS IS HARD, BUT YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. TRY AND KEEP THAT IN MIND.

AM I LUCKY? I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.

JUST FEELS LIKE THE WORLD AIN'T DONE WITH ME YET. THAT THERE'S PUNISHMENT YET TO BE ENDURED.

RELENTLESS NIHILISM--YOU REALLY MUST BE STARTING TO FEEL BETTER.

SO IS SOME-ONE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON WITH MY ARM?

I'LL HANDLE THIS ONE...

"WE USED THE BLEEDING EDGE TECHNOLOGY MY COMPANY DEVELOPS, AND WHAT LITTLE MAGIC WE HAVE ACCESS TO, TO REPLACE IT.

"THINK OF IT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN MEDICINE AND MAGIC MY TEAM HAS TAKEN TO CALLING IT PHYSIMANCY."

IT FEELS WEIRD. COLD.

IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO GET USED TO IT-- BUT THE BOND WILL GROW. YOU'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL IN NO--

BZZZZZZ

WHAT IS IT?

SECURITY BREACH. ONE OF THE LOWER LEVELS.

TALK TO ME, TETSUO, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT'S BAD SIR... WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.

"AND WHOEVER WHATEVER IT IS

IS RELENTLESS"

I'M ON MY WAY, TETSUO. HOLD ON!

HURRY, SIR, PL---

TETSUO. CAN YOU HEAR ME!?

TETSUO CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW, TAKAHASHI.

CRASH

I NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS. YOU TWO WILL BE SAFE UP HERE.

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

"YOU KNOW WE'RE COMING WITH YOU."

YOU WANTED MY ATTENTION-- NOW YOU'VE GOT IT.

I ONLY CAME FOR YOU, KITSUNE.

BUT THREE HUNTERS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE?

I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS!

TO BE CONTINUED.

COVER GALLERY

LF

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
ALEX DIOTTO

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

CURT PIRES FRANKLIN JONAS MAXI DALL'O MARK DALE MICAH MYERS

LOST FANTASY

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
JAMES STOKOE

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
ALEX DIOTTO

ISSUE 5 VARIANT
ALEX DIOTTO

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MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 6 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 6 VARIANT
LUCA CASALANGUIDA

ISSUE 6 VARIANT
LUCA CASALANGUIDA

ISSUE 6 VARIANT
MAXI DALL'O

ISSUE 6 VARIANT
AMILCAR PINNA

ISSUE 7 VARIANT
LUCA CASALANGUIDA

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LUCA CASALANGUIDA

ISSUE 8 VARIANT
LUCA CASALANGUIDA

THIS ISN'T HOW OUR STORY STARTS.

BUT IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH.

WHAT THE FUCK!

EVERY STORY HAS TO START SOMEWHERE.

SO AM I JUST STUCK WITH YOU NOW?

LIKE A FUCKED-UP PET OR SOMETHING?

FRAGILE

WHATEVER...

...I'M GOING OUTSIDE FOR A SMOKE--WHEN I COME BACK, MAYBE YOU'LL USE YOUR BIG-BOY WORDS OR--

HAND THE DRAGON OVER.

NOW.

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT YOU FUCKS ARE A LONG WAY FROM NEW YORK COMIC CON AND YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

TAKE HIM! NOW!

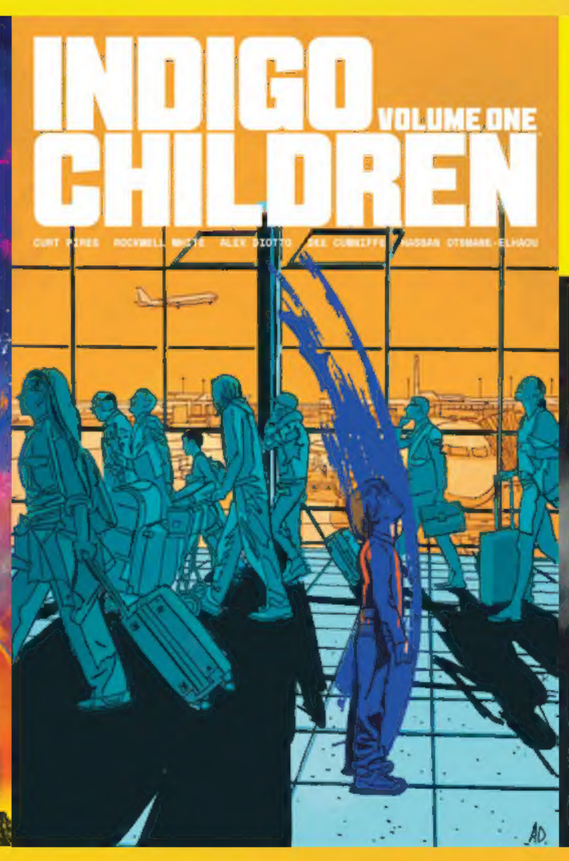
WHAT THE--

WELL...

YOU WANNA DO THIS?

THEN LET'S FUCKING DO THIS.

DISCOVER THE WORLDS OF CURT PIRES AT IMAGE COMICS



COMING SOON

image

TECC

There is a world of magic, myth, and monsters that exists beneath the surface of our own.

In LOST FANTASY, a magical world lies beneath ours, and first contact was made over a hundred years ago between the two worlds due to a natural disaster, resulting in a schism that allowed monsters to break through. Since then, secret monster slayers, known as The Great Hunters, have been working with global leaders to police the border and to keep our world safe from the creatures that lurk in the shadows. Following the conclusion of his case in Montana, Henry is summoned back to The World Beneath to solve his most personal case yet: The murder of his father, Cyrus Blackheart. But as he investigates the murder he'll stumble onto a vast and sprawling conspiracy that has deep ties to his family's history.

A fresh take on fantasy from creators **CURT PIRES** (INDIGO CHILDREN) and **LUCA CASALANGUIDA** (*James Bond*).

"*LOST FANTASY has chosen a hellishly difficult quarry to pursue: to be goth high action genre and obviously smart. It's inspiring to watch this slide its blade home.*"

—Kieron Gillen (THE POWER FANTASY, THE WICKED + THE DIVINE)

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"*A classic in the making.*" **—*Get Your Comic On***

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